

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: April 6, 2005

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS
(DOE/EIS-0285/SA-250-McNary- Santiam Transmission Corridor **Project #: V-R-05/03**)

to: Elizabeth Johnson
Natural Resource Specialist – TFR/The Dalles

Proposed Action: Vegetation Management for the McNary – Santiam NO. 1 230kV transmission line corridor.

Location: Project location is in the BPA Redmond Region in Marion and Wasco County, Oregon.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

Description of the Proposal: BPA proposes to remove tall growing and noxious vegetation from the right of way and access roads that can potentially interfere with the operation, maintenance, and reliability of the transmission lines. Unwanted tall growing and noxious vegetation, danger trees, and reclaim trees will be removed and/or controlled inside the ROW using selective and nonselective methods that may include hand cutting, mowing, and herbicidal treatment. Vegetation management work will occur along the McNary – Santiam transmission line corridor from structure/mile 141/3 to 151/3 (10 miles) The ROW width is approximately 300 feet.

Analysis: A Vegetation Management Checklist was completed for this project in accordance with the requirements identified in the Bonneville Power Administrations Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285).

The project is located within the Confederated Warm Springs Reservation Oregon. Specific land owner/land use measures are listed in section 2.3 of the checklist.

Section 3 of the checklist identifies the natural resources present in the area of the proposed work. The following summarizes natural resources occurring in the project area along with applicable mitigation measures.

Water Resources: Waterbodies (streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands) occurring in the project area are listed in section 3.1 of the Vegetation Management Checklist. Trees in riparian zones will be selectively cut to include only those that are within 50 feet of the conductor at maximum sag. Trees will be topped where shrubs are not present to provide shade and a silt buffer. Shrubs will not be cut that are less than 10 feet high where ground to conductor clearance is more than 50 feet.

No ground disturbing vegetation management methods will be implemented thus minimizing the risk for soil erosion and sedimentation near the streams. Formulations of Triclopyr TEA (common formulations Garlon 3A & Tahoe 3A) may be applied for spot or localized applications up to the waters edge.

Threatened and Endangered Species: Pursuant to its obligations under the Endangered Species Act, BPA has made a determination of whether its proposed project will have any effects on any listed species. Species lists were obtained for Wasco and Marion counties from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on March 31, 2005. In addition, a review of species under the jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries was conducted. Review of site-specific information indicated that none of the listed species were found to be present along the project corridor. A determination of No Effect was made for all ESA listed species and designated critical habitat for the project.

Essential Fish Habitat: A review of NOAA database identified no Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) streams occurred in the project area. A determination of No Effect was made for EFH.

Cultural Resources: On April 1, 2005 the BIA and the Confederated Warm Springs tribal representatives verbally indicated to Libby Johnson that there were no cultural resource issues associated with the project area. If evidence of cultural resources is found, work will cease immediately, and the appropriate authorities will be contacted.

Re-Vegetation: Re-vegetation needs will be determined onsite. Any areas identified with limited ground cover will be replanted with native plant species.

Monitoring: The entire project will be inspected during the work period. Additionally, the line will be patrolled intermittently after treatment to monitor the effectiveness of the treatment and any issues associated with the project.

Findings: This Supplement Analysis finds that 1) the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285) and ROD, and; 2) there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ John Howington

John Howington

Physical Scientist

CONCUR: /s/ James R. Meyer for
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 4/6/2005

Attachment

Vegetation Management Checklist

L. Croff – KEC-4

J. Meyer - KEP-4

J. Sharpe - KEPR-4

F. Walasavage – KEP/Celilo

H. Adams - LC-7

J. Hilliard Creecy - T-DITT2

R. Fouse Jr. – TFR/ Redmond

R. Melzer – TFR/Redmond

W. Banker – TFR/The Dalles

Environmental - KEC-4

Official File - KEP (EQ-14)